WASHINGTON TIMES 24 November 1983

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Self-styled jurist judged able for trial

BY A WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF WRITER

A District man who tried to make a citizen's arrest of a local judge and has issued subpoenas for several high-ranking government officials, yesterday was found mentally competent to stand trial on charges of simple assault and disruption of Congress.

Mr. Harry Zain, 30, is charged with disruption of Congress for an incident in April. Prosecutors claim he walked in on a Congressional meeting and attempted to arrest Adm. Stansfield Turner. A trial on the charge is scheduled for Jan. 31.

In the past, Mr. Zain has attempted to issue arrest warrants for presidential advisers Edwin Meese and Michael Deaver.

Earlier this year Mr. Zain was convicted of unlawful entry when he entered a closed Armed Services Committee hearing and refused to leave when ordered to do so.

Mr. Zain previously had argued that he attended what he believed was an open hearing in an attempt to deliver letters to eight senators informing them of allegations of illegal conduct involving the CIA.

In an attempt to prove his case, Mr. Zain, who serves as his own lawyer, issued subpoenas for CIA Director William Casey, presidential Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes and Navy Secretary John Lehman. After an appeal from a congressional staff attorney, D.C. Superior Court Judge Byron Sorrell quashed the subpoenas.

Two months ago, Mr. Zain, who currently is being held in the D.C. jail, attempted to arrest Judge Sorrell while he was sitting on the bench.

Mr. Zain, who claimed Judge Sorrell was part of a CIA plot, was restrained and eventually tackled by marshals attempting to prevent him from reaching the judge.

Since the September incident, Mr. Zain's case has been transferred to Judge Henry Kennedy.

"I believe there is a very thin linebetween a person who is set in his ways ... and one who has a severe impairment of judgment," Judge Kennedy, said yesterday. "I don't think that thin line has been crossed here."

Judge Kennedy also said Mr. Zain, who despite his expressed reluctance, has been under medication, has behaved well at recent hearings.

- David Sellers